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EXTRAORDINARY

PART II—Section 1

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MINISTRY OF LAW

New Delhi, the 26th March, 1954

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 25th March, 1954 and is hereby published for general information:—

THE PRESS (OBJECTIONABLE MATTER) AMENDMENT ACT, 1954

No. 13 OF 1954

[25th March, 1954]

An Act to amend the Press (Objectionable Matter) Act, 1951.

BE it enacted by Parliament as follows:—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Press (Objectionable Matter) Amendment Act, 1954.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 29th day of January, 1954.

2. Amendment of section 1, Act LVI of 1951.—In section 1 of the Press (Objectionable Matter) Act, 1951 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in sub-section (3), for the words “two years” the words “four years” shall be substituted.

3. Amendment of section 2, Act LVI of 1951.—In section 2 of the principal Act, in clause (k), the following words shall be inserted at the end, namely:—

“or any news-sheet which does not contain the name of the printer and the publisher.”

4. Amendment of section 20, Act LVI of 1951.—In section 20 of the principal Act,—

(a) for sub-sections (3) and (4), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

“(3) Such officer as may be appointed by the State Government in this behalf shall, consistently with the provisions contained in sections 319 and 320 of the Code in so far as they may be applicable thereto, prepare and make out in alphabetical order a list for the entire State of persons residing within the State, who by reason of their journalistic experience or of their connection with printing presses or newspapers or of their experience in public affairs are qualified to serve as jurors, and the list shall contain the name, the place of residence and occupation of every such person.

(4) The list so prepared shall be published by the officer in such manner as he may think fit for the purpose of inviting objections thereto, whether orally or in writing, and a copy of the list as finally revised by him shall be sent to each of the Sessions Judges within the State and shall also be published in the Official Gazette of the State.”;

(b) after sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(4A) In any inquiry under this section, it is the duty of the jury to decide whether any newspaper, news-sheet, book or other document placed before it contains any objectionable matter and it is the duty of the Sessions Judge to decide whether there are sufficient grounds for making an order for the demanding of security or for directing any security which has been deposited or any part thereof to be forfeited to the Government or for directing further security to be deposited.”;

(c) In sub-section (5), for the words and letters “the provisions of the said parts C, E and F shall apply to all inquiries under this section, and the provisions of the said part K shall apply to the preparation and revision of lists of jurors under this section”, the words “the provisions of the said parts shall apply to inquiries under this section” shall be substituted.

5. Amendment of section 23, Act LVI of 1951.—In section 23 of the principal Act, for the words and figures “Any person against whom an order is passed by a Sessions Judge under section 4, section 5, section 7 or section 8 may, within sixty days of the date of such order, prefer an appeal to the High Court,” the following shall be substituted, namely:—

“The competent authority or any other person aggrieved by an order passed by a Sessions Judge under section 4, section 5, section 7 or section 8 may, within sixty days of the date of such order, prefer an appeal to the High Court,”.

6. Amendment of section 29, Act LVI of 1951.—In section 29 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2), the words “in the territories to which this Act extends” shall be inserted at the end.

7. Repeal of Ordinance 4 of 1954.—The Press (Objectionable Matter) Amendment Ordinance, 1954 (4 of 1954) is hereby repealed.

K. V. K. SUNDARAM,

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

